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SUBMIT DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN 232 HART BUILDING

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The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

- Private Sponsor Certification - Page 1 of 4

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9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

OR

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

OR

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

The South Florida Agricultural Foundation is the sole sponsor and organizer of the trip.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

The mission of the South Florida Agricultural Foundation is to provide educational and stewardship opportunities within the South Florida agricultural industry, including sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn, celery, rice & other local crops, in an area which ranks in the top 10 in the nation for agricultural revenue.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

This will be the fifth congressional trip since January 2017 sponsored by the South Florida Agricultural Foundation and the third trip where Senate staff are participating.

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

The Foundation provides agricultural information to local school and civic groups and has plans to award scholarships to students pursuing agricultural studies at local colleges.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	Total: \$554.85	Total: \$368.99		
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	Airfare: \$421.85 Ground Trans: \$76.00 Airboat: \$57.00	Clewiston: \$169.99 West Palm Beach: \$199.00	\$141.75	None

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

The trip involves events that are arranged or organized specifically with regard to House and Senate staffer participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

To showcase Florida's diverse ecosystems, to provide an overview of South Florida's wide range of crops and how other industries collaborate with the agricultural industry.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

1. Holiday Inn Express, 1024 Sugarland Hwy, Clewiston, FL 33440

2. West Palm Beach Marriott, 1001 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33401

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

1. Showcases the heart of the Everglades Agricultural Area and Lake Okeechobee for the western tours

2. Showcases the diversity of the area with eastern farms and their unique challenges in a more populous area threatened by growth and development

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

The daily expenses for lodging and meals are below the maximum per diem rates for official

Federal Government Travel.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Round trip commercial class airfare from Washington DC to West Palm Beach, standard coach 38-pass.

bus for ground transportation; round trip taxi or ride-share from pers residence in DC to/from airport

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:



Name and Title: Ardis Hammock, President

Name of Organization: South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

Address: P. O. Box 1952, West Palm Beach, FL 33402

Telephone Number: 561-315-0481

Fax Number:

E-mail Address: cheryl@soflagfoundation.org

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South Florida Agricultural Foundation (SFAF)

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2019 Congressional Staff Tour

February 20-22, 2019

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

8:46 – 11:32 AM	Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #720
11:32 – 11:40 AM	Arrive Palm Beach International Airport.
11:40 – 12:00 PM	SFAF group leaders will meet guests at the West Palm Beach airport, locate luggage and board bus. Guests will be transported by bus for the duration of the trip.
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Depart airport, Travel to Slim's Fish Camp in Belle Glade – Lunch and informational video on board during route to agricultural area. A board member of SFAF will narrate sites along the drive through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) which surrounds the Southern area of Lake Okeechobee.
1:00 PM	Arrive at Slim's Fish Camp in Belle Glade for airboat tour.
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Depart on airboat for tour of Lake Okeechobee; Boats will stop out on the lake where Tom McVicar of McVicar Consulting, a water resource specialist company that assists the agriculture industry in the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades watershed in matters related to Flood Protection, Water Supply and Stormwater Management, will explain the relationship between the lake and agriculture, discuss water quality and quantity issues and how EAA farmers must comply with federal water regulations. He will address questions from staffers.
2:30 – 3:15 PM	Depart Slim's Fish Camp to travel to Holiday Inn Express in Clewiston.
3:15 – 4:15 PM	Check into Holiday Inn Express hotel, prepare for citrus tour and dinner presentation.
4:15 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Southern Gardens Citrus in Clewiston.
4:30 – 6:00 PM	Southern Gardens Citrus – presentation by Southern Gardens Citrus Team: Denise Roth, Plant Manager, will discuss the citrus processing industry, utilization of every part of an orange and address related food safety issues. During grove stops, Jim Snively, Vice President of Citrus Groves, will discuss citrus greening, hurricanes and other issues destructive to citrus crops, and how they work with the USDA's APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to develop new citrus varieties and combat citrus diseases.
6:00 – 6:45 PM	Arrive at Dunwody Lodge in Clewiston for welcome reception and opportunity to speak one-on-one with local farmers who grow sugarcane, corn, green beans, kale and broccoli.
6:45 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner where Judy Sanchez, Senior Director of Corporate Communications, U.S. Sugar Corp., will give a presentation and answer questions on American Farm Policy & Trade, discussing renewal of the farm bill, NAFTA and other trade issues. SFAF Board President Ardis Hammock will introduce the farmers present, seated throughout the room, and each will speak 5-10 minutes on the history of their farm and the produce they grow, showcasing the diversity of crops produced in the area. Local elected officials such as mayors, city commission and county commission will also attend, relating how local government coordinates with state and federal officials on agricultural issues. SFAF will purchase steaks cooked by Cattlemen's Association highlighting local beef industry.
9:00 PM	Return to Holiday Inn Express.

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South Florida Agricultural Foundation
Itinerary – Page 2
2019 Congressional Staff Tour
February 20-22, 2019

Thursday, February 21, 2019

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast at hotel provided by SFAF and board bus
8:30 AM	Bus departs Holiday Inn
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Bus drives to U.S. Sugar Corp. Mill & Refinery
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Arrive at U. S. Sugar Corp. Mill and Refinery for tour of sugarcane processing procedures led by Judy Sanchez, Sr. Dir. of Corporate Communications. Discussion at the mill will include compliance with OSHA and federal air quality standards, while the refinery will focus on FDA food safety and labeling issues.
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Tour Sugarcane Field operations and harvesting led by Les Baucum, U.S. Sugar Corp. and Judy Sanchez, will discuss compliance of worker protection standards, burning regulations, pesticide and herbicide issues and other Federal regulations that have an impact on the cost and procedures of farming sugarcane.
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Travel to Tellus in Belle Glade.
12:30 – 2:00 PM	Working lunch where a video will be shown on how Tellus began, followed by a tour led by Matt Hoffman, president of the packaging company that recycles leftover sugarcane fiber from the sugar milling process and converts it to packaging and foodservice products such as plates, bowls, and take-out containers. Tellus runs partially on renewable biomass power provided from the sugar mill and solar energy, making it an extremely efficient and environmentally sustainable manufacturing facility.
2:00 – 2:30 PM	Travel to A. Duda & Sons.
2:30 – 4:00 PM	Tour of A. Duda & Sons led by Sam Jones, Assistant General Manager, showcasing the farming operations where celery, radishes, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of celery while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Depart Duda to travel to West Palm Beach.
5:00 – 5:15 PM	Check in at Marriott Hotel, West Palm Beach, prepare for dinner and evening program.
6:45 PM	Meet in hotel lobby.
6:45 – 7:00 PM	Board bus and depart for dinner.
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at Batch New Southern Kitchen, West Palm Beach, farm-to-table restaurant featuring local produce. Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, who represents the area where the western county farms and some of the eastern farms are located, will discuss the importance of agriculture to Palm Beach County. A representative of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will speak about the importance of the Everglades Agricultural Area to the State of Florida and the challenges the state has coordinating with federal agricultural regulations.
9:00 PM	Return to Marriott Hotel.

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8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast in hotel lobby. Check out of Hotel and load bus for tour.
8:30 AM	Bus departs - Drive to Mounts Botanical Gardens in West Palm Beach
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Arrive at Mounts Botanical Gardens. Frank Dowdle of The Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service and a staff member of Mounts Botanical Gardens will give a short presentation about the Gardens, where the Palm Beach Cooperative Extension Service is housed. The presentation will focus on the 25 different gardens on site, including how water and resources affect soil types, a discussion of the variety of plants grown at the gardens, how cooperative extensions are the feet on the ground for education and training of Federal Regulation programs pertaining to agriculture.
9:00 – 11:00 AM	One-on-one roundtable discussion with farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau's eastern Palm Beach County region moderated by Eva Webb, Assistant Director Field Services, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Farmers representing sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, nursery operations and agricultural research will discuss issues with federal pest management regulations, H2A worker programs, wage and labor compliance, NAFTA and how farming is impacted by state and federal issues.
11:00 – 12:00 PM	SFAF will provide lunch purchased from local farms, while Ardis Hammock, SFAF Board President, gives a wrap-up overview of the previous days' presentations' and explains how a broad understanding of agricultural issues plays a vital role in the lives of the farmers in Florida.
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Tour led by Ardis Hammock and Frank Dowdle, who will explain the different exhibits in Mounts Botanical Gardens, a 14-acre living plant museum with 25 unique garden areas including wetlands, extremely dry soil plants, native vegetation, edible landscapes and other diverse ecosystems.
12:30 PM	Bus departs
12:30 – 12:45 PM	Travel to Palm Beach International Airport.
2:53 – 5:19 PM	Depart for Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight #3680
5:19 PM	Arrive Washington-Reagan National Airport.

***Note: All food/catering/transportation/lodging is paid for by the South Florida Agricultural Foundation**